

Association estimates that this regulation would cost their drivers \$100 million.

Sleep apnea is a serious disease that can't be diagnosed arbitrarily by guidance set in Washington, D.C. The Department needs to go through the rule-making process—which, again, they've already agreed to do. This would allow a cost-benefit analysis and input from medical providers and all of the stakeholders involved in this issue.

I'm proud that the bill passed out of the Transportation Committee with unanimous support and had over 68 bipartisan cosponsors. The American Trucking Associations, the American Bus Association, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the National School Transportation Association, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, and the United Motorcoach Association have all endorsed H.R. 3095.

I would like to thank the Transportation Committee, especially Dan Veoni, for their assistance in support of this legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I can only hope that the agency—which has a long docket—in fact gets to this rule-making. It is always, in the best of all possible worlds, best to have rule-making input from the public, of course the formal effect of rules in the courts of the United States. And I'm not sure why the agency was going to do guidance instead. But this is a very important issue. There have been accidents that have been attributed to sleep apnea. But again, without any guidance, without any rulemaking, without any understanding of how to go about even detecting it and what you're supposed to do to prevent it, we are delayed in preventing these accidents. So I very much appreciate the work of both sides, and certainly of my good friend, the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all Members to support the bill before us, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3095.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HELIUM STEWARDSHIP ACT OF 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 354) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 527, with an amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 354

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill, H.R. 527, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment with the following amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Helium Stewardship Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

"In this Act:

"(1) CLIFFSIDE FIELD.—The term 'Cliffside Field' means the helium storage reservoir in which the Federal Helium Reserve is stored.

"(2) FEDERAL HELIUM PIPELINE.—The term 'Federal Helium Pipeline' means the federally owned pipeline system through which helium for the Federal Helium Reserve may be transported.

"(3) FEDERAL HELIUM RESERVE.—The term 'Federal Helium Reserve' means helium reserves owned by the United States.

"(4) FEDERAL HELIUM SYSTEM.—The term 'Federal Helium System' means—

"(A) the Federal Helium Reserve;

"(B) the Cliffside Field;

"(C) the Federal Helium Pipeline; and

"(D) all other infrastructure owned, leased, or managed under contract by the Secretary for the storage, transportation, withdrawal, enrichment, purification, or management of helium.

"(5) FEDERAL USER.—The term 'Federal user' means a Federal agency or extramural holder of one or more Federal research grants using helium.

"(6) LOW-BTU GAS.—The term 'low-Btu gas' means a fuel gas with a heating value of less than 250 Btu per standard cubic foot measured as the higher heating value resulting from the inclusion of noncombustible gases, including nitrogen, helium, argon, and carbon dioxide.

"(7) PERSON.—The term 'person' means any individual, corporation, partnership, firm, association, trust, estate, public or private institution, or State or political subdivision.

"(8) PRIORITY PIPELINE ACCESS.—The term 'priority pipeline access' means the first priority of delivery of crude helium under which the Secretary schedules and ensures the delivery of crude helium to a helium refinery through the Federal Helium System.

"(9) QUALIFIED BIDDER.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified bidder' means a person the Secretary determines is seeking to purchase helium for their own use, refining, or redelivery to users.

"(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'qualified bidder' does not include a person who was previously determined to be a qualified bidder if the Secretary determines that the person did not meet the requirements of a qualified bidder under this Act.

"(10) QUALIFYING DOMESTIC HELIUM TRANSACTION.—The term 'qualifying domestic he-

lium transaction' means any agreement entered into or renegotiated agreement during the preceding 1-year period in the United States for the purchase or sale of at least 15,000,000 standard cubic feet of crude or pure helium to which any holder of a contract with the Secretary for the acceptance, storage, delivery, or redelivery of crude helium from the Federal Helium System is a party.

"(11) REFINER.—The term 'refiner' means a person with the ability to take delivery of crude helium from the Federal Helium Pipeline and refine the crude helium into pure helium.

"(12) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior."

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.

Section 3 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c) EXTRACTION OF HELIUM FROM DEPOSITS ON FEDERAL LAND.—All amounts received by the Secretary from the sale or disposition of helium on Federal land shall be credited to the Helium Production Fund established under section 6(e)."

SEC. 4. STORAGE, WITHDRAWAL AND TRANSPORTATION.

Section 5 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167c) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. STORAGE, WITHDRAWAL AND TRANSPORTATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary provides helium storage, withdrawal, or transportation services to any person, the Secretary shall impose a fee on the person that accurately reflects the economic value of those services.

"(b) MINIMUM FEES.—The fees charged under subsection (a) shall be not less than the amount required to reimburse the Secretary for the full costs of providing storage, withdrawal, or transportation services, including capital investments in upgrades and maintenance at the Federal Helium System.

"(c) SCHEDULE OF FEES.—Prior to sale or auction under subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 6, the Secretary shall annually publish a standardized schedule of fees that the Secretary will charge under this section.

"(d) TREATMENT.—All fees received by the Secretary under this section shall be credited to the Helium Production Fund established under section 6(e).

"(e) STORAGE AND DELIVERY.—In accordance with this section, the Secretary shall—

"(1) allow any person or qualified bidder to which crude helium is sold or auctioned under section 6 to store helium in the Federal Helium Reserve; and

"(2) establish a schedule for the transportation and delivery of helium using the Federal Helium System that—

"(A) ensures timely delivery of helium auctioned pursuant to section 6(b)(2);

"(B) ensures timely delivery of helium acquired from the Secretary from the Federal Helium Reserve by means other than an auction under section 6(b)(2), including nonallocated sales; and

"(C) provides priority access to the Federal Helium Pipeline for in-kind sales for Federal users.

"(f) NEW PIPELINE ACCESS.—The Secretary shall consider any applications for access to the Federal Helium Pipeline in a manner consistent with the schedule for phasing out commercial sales and disposition of assets pursuant to section 6."

SEC. 5. SALE OF CRUDE HELIUM.

Section 6 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167d) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. SALE OF CRUDE HELIUM.

"(a) PHASE A: ALLOCATION TRANSITION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer crude helium for sale in such quantities, at such times, at not less than the minimum

price established under subsection (b)(7), and under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this subsection with minimum market disruption.

“(2) **FEDERAL PURCHASES.**—Federal users may purchase refined helium with priority pipeline access under this subsection from persons who have entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an equivalent quantity of crude helium at the in-kind price from the Secretary.

“(3) **DURATION.**—This subsection applies during—

“(A) the period beginning on the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 and ending on September 30, 2014; and

“(B) any period during which the sale of helium under subsection (b) is delayed or suspended.

“(b) **PHASE B: AUCTION IMPLEMENTATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall offer crude helium for sale in quantities not subject to auction under paragraph (2), after completion of each auction, at not less than the minimum price established under paragraph (7), and under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary—

“(A) to maximize total recovery of helium from the Federal Helium Reserve over the long term;

“(B) to maximize the total financial return to the taxpayer;

“(C) to manage crude helium sales according to the ability of the Secretary to extract and produce helium from the Federal Helium Reserve;

“(D) to give priority to meeting the helium demand of Federal users in the event of any disruption to the Federal Helium Reserve; and

“(E) to carry out this subsection with minimum market disruption.

“(2) **AUCTION QUANTITIES.**—For the period described in paragraph (4) and consistent with the conditions described in paragraph (8), the Secretary shall annually auction to any qualified bidder a quantity of crude helium in the Federal Helium Reserve equal to—

“(A) for fiscal year 2015, 10 percent of the total volume of crude helium made available for that fiscal year;

“(B) for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, a percentage of the total volume of crude helium that is 15 percentage points greater than the percentage made available for the previous fiscal year; and

“(C) for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter, 100 percent of the total volume of crude helium made available for that fiscal year.

“(3) **FEDERAL PURCHASES.**—Federal users may purchase refined helium with priority pipeline access under this subsection from persons who have entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an equivalent quantity of crude helium at the in-kind price from the Secretary.

“(4) **DURATION.**—This subsection applies during the period—

“(A) beginning on October 1, 2014; and

“(B) ending on the date on which the volume of recoverable crude helium at the Federal Helium Reserve (other than privately owned quantities of crude helium stored temporarily at the Federal Helium Reserve under section 5 and this section) is 3,000,000,000 standard cubic feet.

“(5) **SAFETY VALVE.**—The Secretary may adjust the quantities specified in paragraph (2)—

“(A) downward, if the Secretary determines the adjustment necessary—

“(i) to minimize market disruptions that pose a threat to the economic well-being of the United States; and

“(ii) only after submitting a written justification of the adjustment to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; or

“(B) upward, if the Secretary determines the adjustment necessary to increase participation in crude helium auctions or returns to the taxpayer.

“(6) **AUCTION FORMAT.**—The Secretary shall conduct each auction using a method that maximizes revenue to the Federal Government.

“(7) **PRICES.**—The Secretary shall annually establish, as applicable, separate sale and minimum auction prices under subsection (a)(1) and paragraphs (1) and (2) using, if applicable and in the following order of priority:

“(A) The sale price of crude helium in auctions held by the Secretary under paragraph (2).

“(B) Price recommendations and disaggregated data from a qualified, independent third party who has no conflict of interest, who shall conduct a confidential survey of qualifying domestic helium transactions.

“(C) The volume-weighted average price of all crude helium and pure helium purchased, sold, or processed by persons in all qualifying domestic helium transactions.

“(D) The volume-weighted average cost of converting gaseous crude helium into pure helium.

“(8) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall require all persons that are parties to a contract with the Secretary for the withdrawal, acceptance, storage, transportation, delivery, or redelivery of crude helium to disclose, on a strictly confidential basis—

“(i) the volumes and associated prices in dollars per thousand cubic feet of all crude and pure helium purchased, sold, or processed by persons in qualifying domestic helium transactions;

“(ii) the volumes and associated costs in dollars per thousand cubic feet of converting crude helium into pure helium; and

“(iii) refinery capacity and future capacity estimates.

“(B) **CONDITION.**—As a condition of sale or auction to a refiner under subsection (a)(1) and paragraphs (1) and (2), effective beginning 90 days after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, the refiner shall make excess refining capacity of helium available at commercially reasonable rates to—

“(i) any person prevailing in auctions under paragraph (2); and

“(ii) any person that has acquired crude helium from the Secretary from the Federal Helium Reserve by means other than an auction under paragraph (2) after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, including nonallocated sales.

“(9) **USE OF INFORMATION.**—The Secretary may use the information collected under this Act—

“(A) to approximate crude helium prices; and

“(B) to ensure the recovery of fair value for the taxpayers of the United States from sales of crude helium.

“(10) **PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY.**—The Secretary shall adopt such administrative policies and procedures as the Secretary considers necessary and reasonable to ensure the confidentiality of information submitted pursuant to this Act.

“(11) **FORWARD AUCTIONS.**—Effective beginning in fiscal year 2016, the Secretary may conduct a forward auction once each fiscal year of a quantity of helium that is equal to up to 10 percent of the volume of crude he-

lium to be made available at auction during the following fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the forward auction will—

“(A) not cause a disruption in the supply of helium from the Reserve;

“(B) represent a cost-effective action;

“(C) generate greater returns for taxpayers; and

“(D) increase the effectiveness of price discovery.

“(12) **SALE SCHEDULE AND FREQUENCY.**—For fiscal year 2015 the Secretary shall conduct only one auction, which shall precede, and one sale, which shall take place no later than August 1, 2014, with full and final payment for the sale being made no later than September 26, 2014. Consistent with the annual volumes established under paragraph (2), effective beginning in fiscal year 2016, the Secretary may conduct auctions twice during each fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the auction frequency will—

“(A) not cause a disruption in the supply of helium from the Reserve;

“(B) represent a cost-effective action;

“(C) generate greater returns for taxpayers; and

“(D) increase the effectiveness of price discovery.

“(13) **ONE-TIME SALE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (4)(A), the Secretary shall hold a one-time sale of helium, no later than August 1, 2014 from amounts available in fiscal year 2016 pursuant to this section. Full and final payment for the sale must be made no later than 45 days after the date the sale takes place.

“(B) **VOLUME SOLD.**—The volume of helium sold under this paragraph—

“(i) shall be at least 250 million cubic feet; and

“(ii) shall be made available for sale consistent with paragraph (2)(B).

“(c) **PHASE C: CONTINUED ACCESS FOR FEDERAL USERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall offer crude helium for sale to Federal users in such quantities, at such times, at such prices required to reimburse the Secretary for the full costs of the sales, and under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this subsection.

“(2) **FEDERAL PURCHASES.**—Federal users may purchase refined helium with priority pipeline access under this subsection from persons who have entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an equivalent quantity of crude helium at the in-kind price from the Secretary.

“(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This subsection applies beginning on the day after the date described in subsection (b)(4)(B).

“(d) **PHASE D: DISPOSAL OF ASSETS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not earlier than 2 years after the date of commencement of Phase C described in subsection (c) and not later than September 30, 2021, the Secretary shall designate as excess property and dispose of all facilities, equipment, and other real and personal property, and all interests in the same, held by the United States in the Federal Helium System.

“(2) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—The disposal of the property described in paragraph (1) shall be in accordance with subtitle I of title 40, United States Code.

“(3) **PROCEEDS.**—All proceeds accruing to the United States by reason of the sale or other disposal of the property described in paragraph (1) shall be treated as funds received under this Act for purposes of subsection (e).

“(4) **COSTS.**—All costs associated with the sale and disposal (including costs associated with termination of personnel) and with the cessation of activities under this subsection shall be paid from amounts available in the

Helium Production Fund established under subsection (e).

“(e) HELIUM PRODUCTION FUND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—All amounts received under this Act, including amounts from the sale or auction of crude helium, shall be credited to the Helium Production Fund, which shall be available without fiscal year limitation for purposes determined to be necessary and cost effective by the Secretary to carry out this Act (other than sections 16, 17, and 18), including capital investments in upgrades and maintenance at the Federal Helium System, including—

“(A) well head maintenance at the Cliffside Field;

“(B) capital investments in maintenance and upgrades of facilities that pressurize the Cliffside Field;

“(C) capital investments in maintenance and upgrades of equipment related to the storage, withdrawal, enrichment, transportation, purification, and sale of crude helium from the Federal Helium Reserve;

“(D) entering into purchase, lease, or other agreements to drill new or uncap existing wells to maximize the recovery of crude helium from the Federal Helium System; and

“(E) any other scheduled or unscheduled maintenance of the Federal Helium System.

“(2) EXCESS FUNDS.—Amounts in the Helium Production Fund in excess of amounts the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out paragraph (1) shall be paid to the general fund of the Treasury and used to reduce the annual Federal budget deficit.

“(3) RETIREMENT OF PUBLIC DEBT.—Out of amounts paid to the general fund of the Treasury under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Treasury shall use \$51,000,000 to retire public debt.

“(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing all expenditures by the Bureau of Land Management to carry out this Act.

“(f) MINIMUM QUANTITY.—The Secretary shall offer for sale or auction during each fiscal year under subsections (a), (b), and (c) a quantity of crude helium that is the lesser of—

“(1) the quantity of crude helium offered for sale by the Secretary during fiscal year 2012; or

“(2) the maximum total production capacity of the Federal Helium System.”.

SEC. 6. INFORMATION, ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH, AND STRATEGY.

The Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by repealing section 15 (50 U.S.C. 167m);

(2) by redesignating section 17 (50 U.S.C. 167 note) as section 20; and

(3) by inserting after section 14 (50 U.S.C. 167l) the following:

“SEC. 15. INFORMATION.

“(a) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, shall make available on the Internet information relating to the Federal Helium System that includes—

“(1) continued publication of an open market and in-kind price;

“(2) aggregated projections of excess refining capacity;

“(3) ownership of helium held in the Federal Helium Reserve;

“(4) the volume of helium delivered to persons through the Federal Helium Pipeline;

“(5) pressure constraints of the Federal Helium Pipeline;

“(6) an estimate of the projected date when 3,000,000,000 standard cubic feet of crude he-

lium will remain in the Federal Helium Reserve and the final phase described in section 6(c) will begin;

“(7) the amount of the fees charged under section 5;

“(8) the scheduling of crude helium deliveries through the Federal Helium Pipeline; and

“(9) other factors that will increase transparency.

“(b) REPORTING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, to provide the market with appropriate and timely information affecting the helium resource, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management shall establish a timely and public reporting process to provide data that affects the helium industry, including—

“(1) annual maintenance schedules and quarterly updates, that shall include—

“(A) the date and duration of planned shutdowns of the Federal Helium Pipeline;

“(B) the nature of work to be undertaken on the Federal Helium System, whether routine, extended, or extraordinary;

“(C) the anticipated impact of the work on the helium supply;

“(D) the efforts being made to minimize any impact on the supply chain; and

“(E) any concerns regarding maintenance of the Federal Helium Pipeline, including the pressure of the pipeline or deviation from normal operation of the pipeline;

“(2) for each unplanned outage, a description of—

“(A) the beginning of the outage;

“(B) the expected duration of the outage;

“(C) the nature of the problem;

“(D) the estimated impact on helium supply;

“(E) a plan to correct problems, including an estimate of the potential timeframe for correction and the likelihood of plan success within the timeframe;

“(F) efforts to minimize negative impacts on the helium supply chain; and

“(G) updates on repair status and the anticipated online date;

“(3) monthly summaries of meetings and communications between the Bureau of Land Management and the Cliffside Refiners Limited Partnership, including a list of participants and an indication of any actions taken as a result of the meetings or communications; and

“(4) current predictions of the lifespan of the Federal Helium System, including how much longer the crude helium supply will be available based on current and forecasted demand and the projected maximum production capacity of the Federal Helium System for the following fiscal year.

“SEC. 16. HELIUM GAS RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, shall—

“(1) in coordination with appropriate heads of State geological surveys—

“(A) complete a national helium gas assessment that identifies and quantifies the quantity of helium, including the isotope helium-3, in each reservoir, including assessments of the constituent gases found in each helium resource, such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and natural gas; and

“(B) make available the modern seismic and geophysical log data for characterization of the Bush Dome Reservoir;

“(2) in coordination with appropriate international agencies and the global geology community, complete a global helium gas assessment that identifies and quantifies the quantity of the helium, including the isotope helium-3, in each reservoir;

“(3) in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, complete—

“(A) an assessment of trends in global demand for helium, including the isotope helium-3;

“(B) a 10-year forecast of domestic demand for helium across all sectors, including scientific and medical research, commercial, manufacturing, space technologies, cryogenics, and national defense; and

“(C) an inventory of medical, scientific, industrial, commercial, and other uses of helium in the United States, including Federal uses, that identifies the nature of the helium use, the amounts required, the technical and commercial viability of helium recapture and recycling in that use, and the availability of material substitutes wherever possible; and

“(4) submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the results of the assessments required under this paragraph.

“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$1,000,000.

“SEC. 17. LOW-BTU GAS SEPARATION AND HELIUM CONSERVATION.

“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Energy shall support programs of research, development, commercial application, and conservation (including the programs described in subsection (b))—

“(1) to expand the domestic production of low-Btu gas and helium resources;

“(2) to separate and capture helium from natural gas streams; and

“(3) to reduce the venting of helium and helium-bearing low-Btu gas during natural gas exploration and production.

“(b) PROGRAMS.—

“(1) MEMBRANE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with other appropriate agencies, shall support a civilian research program to develop advanced membrane technology that is used in the separation of low-Btu gases, including technologies that remove helium and other constituent gases that lower the Btu content of natural gas.

“(2) HELIUM SEPARATION TECHNOLOGY.—The Secretary of Energy shall support a research program to develop technologies for separating, gathering, and processing helium in low concentrations that occur naturally in geological reservoirs or formations, including—

“(A) low-Btu gas production streams; and

“(B) technologies that minimize the atmospheric venting of helium gas during natural gas production.

“(3) INDUSTRIAL HELIUM PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Energy, working through the Advanced Manufacturing Office of the Department of Energy, shall carry out a research program—

“(A) to develop low-cost technologies and technology systems for recycling, reprocessing, and reusing helium for all medical, scientific, industrial, commercial, aerospace, and other uses of helium in the United States, including Federal uses; and

“(B) to develop industrial gathering technologies to capture helium from other chemical processing, including ammonia processing.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$3,000,000.

“SEC. 18. HELIUM-3 SEPARATION.

“(a) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The Secretary shall cooperate with the Secretary of Energy, or a designee, on any assessment or

research relating to the extraction and refining of the isotope helium-3 from crude helium and other potential sources, including—

“(1) gas analysis; and

“(2) infrastructure studies.

“(b) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, or a designee, may carry out a study to assess the feasibility of—

“(1) establishing a facility to separate the isotope helium-3 from crude helium; and

“(2) exploring other potential sources of the isotope helium-3.

“(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that contains a description of the results of the assessments conducted under this section.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$1,000,000.

“SEC. 19. FEDERAL AGENCY HELIUM ACQUISITION STRATEGY.

“In anticipation of the implementation of Phase D described in section 6(d), and not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, the Secretary (in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, and other agencies as appropriate) shall submit to Congress a report that provides for Federal users—

“(1) an assessment of the consumption of, and projected demand for, crude and refined helium;

“(2) a description of a 20-year Federal strategy for securing access to helium;

“(3) a determination of a date prior to September 30, 2021, for the implementation of Phase D as described in section 6(d) that minimizes any potential supply disruptions for Federal users;

“(4) an assessment of the effects of increases in the price of refined helium and methods and policies for mitigating any determined effects; and

“(5) a description of a process for prioritization of uses that accounts for diminished availability of helium supplies that may occur over time.”.

SEC. 7. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) Section 4 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167b) is amended by striking “section 6(f)” each place it appears in subsections (c)(3), (c)(4), and (d)(2) and inserting “section 6(e)”.

(b) Section 8 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167f) is repealed.

SEC. 8. EXISTING AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall not affect or diminish the rights and obligations of the Secretary of the Interior and private parties under agreements in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, except to the extent that the agreements are renewed or extended after that date.

(b) DELIVERY.—No agreement described in subsection (a) shall affect or diminish the right of any party that purchases helium after the date of enactment of this Act in accordance with section 6 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167d) (as amended by section 5) to receive delivery of the helium in accordance with section 5(e)(2) of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167c(e)(2)) (as amended by section 4).

SEC. 9. REGULATIONS.

The Secretary of the Interior shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this Act and the amendments

made by this Act, including regulations necessary to prevent unfair acts and practices.

SEC. 10. AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS.

(a) SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM.—

(1) SECURE PAYMENTS FOR STATES AND COUNTIES CONTAINING FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—Section 101 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111) is amended by striking “2012” each place it appears and inserting “2013”.

(B) ELECTIONS.—Section 102(b) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7112(b)) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “2012” each place it appears and inserting “2013”.

(C) DISTRIBUTION OF PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE COUNTIES.—Section 103(d)(2) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7113(d)(2)) is amended by striking “and 2012” and inserting “through 2013”.

(2) CONTINUATION OF AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT SPECIAL PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LAND.—Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 is amended—

(A) in section 203(a)(1) (16 U.S.C. 7123(a)(1)), by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”;

(B) in section 204(e)(3)(B)(iii) (16 U.S.C. 7124(e)(3)(B)(iii)), by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”;

(C) in section 205(a)(4) (16 U.S.C. 7125(a)(4)), by striking “2011” each place it appears and inserting “2012”;

(D) in section 207(a) (16 U.S.C. 7127(a)), by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”; and

(E) in section 208 (16 U.S.C. 7128)—

(i) in subsection (a), by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”; and

(ii) in subsection (b), by striking “2013” and inserting “2014”.

(3) CONTINUATION OF AUTHORITY TO RESERVE AND USE COUNTY FUNDS.—Section 304 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7144) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “2013” and inserting “2014”.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 402 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7152) is amended by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”.

(b) ABANDONED WELL REMEDIATION.—Section 349 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15907) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) FEDERALLY DRILLED WELLS.—Out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, \$36,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, and \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 shall be made available to the Secretary, without further appropriation and to remain available until expended, to remediate, reclaim, and close abandoned oil and gas wells on current or former National Petroleum Reserve land.”.

(c) NATIONAL PARKS MAINTENANCE BACKLOG.—Section 814(g) of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 1f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) AVAILABLE FUNDS.—Out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$20,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary of the Interior for fiscal year 2018, and \$30,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary of the Interior for fiscal year 2019, without further appropriation and to remain available until expended, to pay the Federal funding share of challenge

cost-share agreements for deferred maintenance projects and to correct deficiencies in National Park Service infrastructure.

“(5) COST-SHARE REQUIREMENT.—Not less than 50 percent of the total cost of project for funds made available under paragraph (4) to pay the Federal funding share shall be derived from non-Federal sources, including in-kind contribution of goods and services fairly valued.”.

(d) ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND.—Section 411(h) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1240a(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING.—

“(A) WAIVER OF LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (5), the limitation on the total annual payments to a certified State or Indian tribe under this subsection shall not apply for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

“(B) LIMITATION ON WAIVER.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the total annual payment to a certified State or Indian tribe under this subsection for fiscal year 2014 shall not be more than \$28,000,000 and for fiscal year 2015 shall not be more than \$75,000,000.

“(C) INSUFFICIENT AMOUNTS.—If the total annual payment to a certified State or Indian tribe under paragraphs (1) and (2) is limited by subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall—

“(i) give priority to making payments under paragraph (2); and

“(ii) use any remaining funds to make payments under paragraph (1).”.

(e) SODA ASH ROYALTIES.—Notwithstanding section 24 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 262) and the terms of any lease under that Act, the royalty rate on the quantity of gross value of the output of sodium compounds and related products at the point of shipment to market from Federal land in the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act shall be 4 percent.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OFFSET.—Section 207(c) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17022(c)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, except that the amount authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section not appropriated as of the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 shall be reduced by \$6,000,000”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan legislation being considered by the House this evening, H.R. 527, the Helium Stewardship Act, is a commonsense action plan to protect our economy from the impending helium shortage and to inject free market principles into our Federal helium program.

The House must take action today on this legislation before time runs out. Under current law, the Reserve must cease operations on October 1—that's only 6 days from now, Mr. Speaker. The Federal Helium Reserve supplies one-third of the world's helium, and a disruption would cause real harm to our Nation's economy.

Helium is essential to our 21st century economy. Without it, we wouldn't have lifesaving MRI machines, we wouldn't have computer chips, we wouldn't have fiber optic cables or other devices used for our defense needs. Unless Congress takes immediate action, tens of thousands of American jobs and critical technologies would be put at risk.

The bill before us today is truly a bipartisan, bicameral plan that I'm pleased to have worked on with both my Senate and House colleagues.

□ 1800

This bill would implement a new operating system for the Federal Helium Reserve on October 1 that would include semiannual auctions. This will ensure that we prevent a crippling helium shortage and that the reserve stays open until 2021, when then nearly all of the helium supply is sold. That will give us enough time for the market to supplant this helium that will go away. Mr. Speaker, it also ensures that this program, Federal program, is ended.

A little history: on April 26, the House passed H.R. 527, the Helium Stewardship Act, by a vote of 394-1. Last week, the Senate passed H.R. 527 with an amendment by a vote of 97-2.

This final text of House Resolution 354 makes several necessary, minimal adjustments to the Senate-passed version of H.R. 527 to ensure it abides by budget rules and laws so that it does not increase deficit spending.

Prompt action of this final text will maintain a flow of helium for the reserve after October 1 and prevent economic disruptions to American jobs manufacturing critical technology and medical devices.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 100 groups representing the end users of refined helium—and these groups are high-tech manufacturers of semiconductors, aerospace technologies, medical devices, chemicals, fiber optics, and science research—all have called for passage of this legislation.

We have an opportunity today to preserve our economy, bring real reforms to a Federal program, get a better return for the taxpayer, and in the end truly shut down an outdated Federal program. These are all wins that we should pass this bill and celebrate these successes.

I urge adoption of the resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. While the process of moving this legislation forward has taken some time, it has also demonstrated that Members of both parties, Members of both Houses, can work cooperatively and in good faith to reach bipartisan solutions. This is the sort of legislative action Americans want to see us undertaking.

The legislation before us is a version that none of us would write if left to our own devices. Every Member who has worked on this bill, every stakeholder affected by this bill has had to make compromises to achieve a shared goal of maintaining the supply of helium that is important. We have had to make substantive changes to address legitimate policy concerns, and we have had to make technical changes to address parliamentary and budget matters; but we have gotten the job done. I wish we could use this as a model for the continuing resolution, for the debt ceiling, for the farm bill, for so many other things.

With the clock ticking, the need to get this legislation across the finish line is urgent.

As I said when we considered this bill back in April, helium is not used just to fill balloons. It is critical for MRI, magnetic resonant imaging, machines; it is necessary for preparing NASA rockets for launching; for high-tech manufacturing such as cleaning silicone chips for integrated circuits; and for lots of important scientific research. For many of these applications, there is simply no replacement for helium.

Our Nation's Federal Helium Reserve supplies nearly half of the helium used in the United States and roughly a third of all the helium used globally. If Congress fails to pass this legislation by Monday—the end of the current fiscal year—the Interior Department's authority to continue operating the reserve will expire. If this is allowed to happen, nearly half of America's helium would be cut off creating a crisis—and that's not an overstatement—that would devastate important sectors of America's high-tech and medical economy.

H.R. 527 would extend the life of the Federal Helium Reserve past the end of this fiscal year and ensure a fair return to taxpayers on this federally owned resource. It would generate more than \$300 million for American taxpayers, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

I thank Chairman HASTINGS, also former Ranking Member Markey and current Ranking Member DEFAZIO. They deserve enormous credit for moving this legislation forward.

This is a good bill that provides a workable solution to a real problem, and I urge its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the House Resources

Committee for his leadership on this and many other issues. It is so important to America's economy and our country.

I rise today also in support of this legislation to reform the Federal helium program and also to reduce the deficit by \$90 million over the next decade. As chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, I realize this is not about balloons. This is about America's great innovation and technology sector, about computers, and, as we heard from my colleague from New Jersey, MRIs and our great innovation and technology. It is essential that this become law.

At the same time, this measure also provides short-term help to rural communities from some of the funding sources here. Those communities are teetering on the edge of bankruptcy.

Let's be clear: that help is a lifeline, not a lifeboat. The status quo of asking Uncle Sam for a check year after year is simply not sustainable. However, managing our Federal forests, generating jobs and revenue, that's sustainable.

Last week, the House passed a long-term solution for our rural forested communities, H.R. 1526, the chairman's bill, the Healthy Forest for the Healthy Communities Act. Now, it's time—now, it's time—for the United States Senate to take positive action. We need to create jobs in the woods, we need to reduce the threat of wildfire, catastrophic wildfire, we need to improve the health of our watersheds and our forests, we need to help our forested communities get back to self-sufficiency, self-reliance, get people back to work in the woods. The clock is ticking. It's time to get this done. Rural communities cannot wait any longer.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague, Mr. HOLT, for giving me a moment today.

I rise to thank Chairman HASTINGS, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and all the other Members in the House and in the Senate who are involved in resolving the helium reserve issue.

While Americans are rightfully frustrated with gridlock in Washington—gridlock and posturing that right now is threatening a government shutdown and damage to our economy—today we are voting on a negotiated path forward, a more fair solution, that will ensure a stable supply of helium for businesses and will reduce our deficit by an estimated \$90 million over the next 10 years.

From the beginning of the discussion over the future of the Helium Stewardship Act this year, I've taken a keen interest in the issue, as helium is a linchpin for Connecticut's economy. From refiners like Praxair to end users like hospitals and manufacturers, the health of the helium market supports thousands of jobs in my State.

Once again, I want to thank Chairman HASTINGS for working with everyone at the table to make some last-minute changes to address legitimate and justified concerns. This sort of bipartisan, respectful cooperation and compromise is just what our country needs and just what our country wants.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), who has been actively involved in this legislation since actually the issue came before us a little over a year ago.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in strong support today of this legislation. I also want to extend my thanks to Chairman HASTINGS, to Mr. HOLT, to Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and the former ranking member, Senator MARKEY, all for their leadership, as well as our friends in the Senate, Senators WYDEN and MURKOWSKI. This is truly an example of a good bipartisan piece of legislation done in a bicameral manner. I think we can all take pride in the fact that Congress can actually get things done when we put our minds to it.

While I had some reservations regarding the initial House bill, due to some potential issues of potential contract violations, this bill before us, H.R. 527, fairly addresses those concerns. I tried to address those concerns in the previous bill. I also want to thank Ms. ESTY and Mr. HIGGINS from New York for their strong support in that effort.

Again, passing this legislation will ensure continued access to the Nation's helium supply for American businesses and researchers. As has been stated, if no action is taken before October 1, the Bureau of Land Management will be forced to shutter the Federal Helium Reserve, putting at risk thousands of jobs of hardworking Americans, particularly those in the manufacturing sector.

A steady supply of helium is absolutely essential in manufacturing items such as MRI scanners, computer chips, and fiber optic cables. We need to make sure that we can continue in those pursuits.

Also, it is important to many refiners, like in my district Air Products and Chemicals, in Ms. ESTY's district Praxair, Linde and others, who are also very much involved with making sure this helium gets to the marketplace and to the end users.

Today's action will ensure that these advanced and high-tech manufacturers will not lose access to over one-third of the global supply of helium at a time when a helium shortage is already in place.

Again, I want to say thanks to everybody involved—Mr. HOLT and Mr. HASTINGS—for their patience for listening and for coming up with a very good solution to a very important problem.

Mr. HOLT. Let me ask the chairman if he has additional speakers.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I am prepared to close if the gentleman is prepared to close.

Mr. HOLT. Then I will close with a few remarks, again, with thanks to the chairman; and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to stress how important the operation of the Federal Helium Reserve has been to science, to technology, to manufacturing, to health care in the United States.

Three-quarters of a century ago, farsighted legislators began stockpiling helium thinking it might be used for dirigibles and blimps lighter than aircraft. They didn't know what else it would be used for, but they recognized and understood that helium had some very special properties.

Additionally, the Federal Helium Reserve—the country's domestic stockpile of helium—has been a good investment for taxpayers. Helium is without a doubt a rare valuable resource, critical to our economic and national security. Because of decisions by Congress in past years, we are now in a position where failure to act in the next 5 days will result in nearly half of America's helium supply being cut off, creating a crisis in health care, in research, in manufacturing, and in many other areas.

Here we have an example of where Congress was farsighted and then subsequently shortsighted. Today, I think we are taking wise steps to remedy the situation.

It's important that as we make the decisions and the changes that we make with this legislation, that we don't fail to recognize the possible future uses, many perhaps not envisioned, and a possible failure of the market to provide an adequate supply of helium to meet those demands.

I know there is an ideology that's prevalent around here that for any commodity, for any human need the market will provide. In fact, it doesn't always. In this case, in the helium over the decades, it would not have had it not been for the Federal reserve.

So it is important today that as we are passing this legislation, we remember that it does require within 2 years the development of a long-term helium strategy to secure access to helium and to minimize disruption of a helium supply once the current reserve is shut down.

The Federal Helium Reserve over the life of this bill will generate over \$300 million for American taxpayers. Now, Mr. Speaker, the definition of a good investment is something that returns considerably more than you put into it. The helium reserve has been a good investment for this country; and, frankly, the Federal Government should be looking for more opportunities to make such investments.

If in a few years' time we realize that a Federal Helium Reserve is necessary to secure a long-term domestic supply of helium, then I hope we can work to-

gether in the same cooperative manner that we worked on this to make the farsighted investments that legislators made many decades ago to establish a Federal Helium Reserve.

I thank my colleagues on the committee, especially my friend from Washington State, Chairman HASTINGS, for his work on this bipartisan solution. I encourage my colleagues here and in the other body to get this to the President for his signature quickly.

I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1815

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, virtually all of my colleagues have expressed gratitude for this bipartisan-bicameral effort, and I want to add my words to that also.

I particularly want to thank two members of the House Natural Resources staff—Tim Charters and Amanda Tharpe—because they worked diligently on this, especially this last week in getting the final language together.

It's not often that you get to thank one person who now has served in both bodies, but former Ranking Member ED MARKEY was a cosponsor originally of H.R. 527. Senator MARKEY has now been a big advocate over in the Senate, and I want to thank him and his staff.

I particularly want to thank again Senator WYDEN and Senator MURKOWSKI and their staffs because we recognized earlier on that this had to be done before a date certain.

Obviously, as we've said many times on this floor, there are differences between the two bodies in how they approach different issues—and that was certainly true with this one—but we knew we had to get this done, so we have a piece now that, I think, both sides and both Houses can agree on.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 354.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

INTERSTATE LAND SALES FULL DISCLOSURE ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2600) to amend the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act to clarify how the Act applies to condominiums.